

Christ Church

High Harrogate



Acts of the Apostles 2:1-21

A Parish service for when we're
UNITED but **APART**
for the



PENTECOST

(Whitsun)

24th May 2026

Welcome to Christ Church, praying and united, with the whole Church of God ; may this bring a blessing upon your home, as also upon the needs of loved ones and the world,

We build upon all that we have shared and shared still, as now we rejoice in our renewal in Christ's grace, gather as the Church, and unite in fellowship, proclamation and prayer from the place of our own homes.

Be it 8am or 10am or other _ still, maybe, the wisdom to quieten our mobile phone  and be very much in prayer  .

Please sit very comfortably.

Please feel free to sing ; and maybe to speak some parts of this prayer time out-loud _ you may find it surprisingly helpful.

Please, above all, simply know that we are all together ; and as we pray where we are now, so do many many more, across the town, across these towns, and across the world,

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Happy Easter !!

Matthew

The Greeting

In welcome of one-another, near or far -

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.

[And also with you.]

Jesus Christ, whom we worship,
is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord
and we have walked with him
through his journey of love.
We have faced the agony of his suffering
and death on a cross.
We have rejoiced as his bursting free
from the bonds of death,
We have enjoyed his risen presence with us
and his revelation of himself through the
breaking of bread.
We have seen his return to the throne
before which every knee shall bow
and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord.
And now,
with the followers of his own time,
we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit,
his gift to his people,
through whom we make Christ known to the world.

Prayers of Penitence

Christ our passover lamb
has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice
by opening our heart to the Lord,
and confess our sins in spirit and in truth :

- Silence is kept for a short time, in Confession and Prayer.



Deliver me from my guilt,
O God of my salvation ,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness :
Lord, have mercy :

Have mercy on me God
in your great goodness :
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences ;
Christ, have mercy :

Wash us thoroughly from all wickedness,
and cleanse us from our sin :
Lord, have mercy :

In sharing and receiving the Absolution of God :

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect 

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit :
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort ;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AMEN.

CLICK below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQGPK8s7Tj8>

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord :
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice ;
tender to me the promise of his word ;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**



**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name :
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done ;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same ;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might :
powers and dominions lay their glory by ;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word :
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.**

*Words : Timothy Dudley-Smith (b 1926)
Tune : Woodlands*

The Liturgy of the Word



The First Reading - *Acts of the Apostles 2:1–21*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:3-13

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. ¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading - John 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." ' ³⁹Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

New Revised Standard Version

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.



Today we celebrate Pentecost, which as the name suggests, is **fifty** days after Easter. But what is Pentecost? It is the time after the Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus when God kept his promise not to leave us alone, and sent His Holy Spirit down to live with us and in us. It was the beginning of the Christian Church, the Birth of the Church.

Some people find the story of Pentecost quite difficult and disturbing. Can this really have happened, is it true? Luke's account in The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of what happened.

They, the Apostles, were all gathered on the day of Pentecost in prayer, and suddenly the Holy Spirit came both audibly and visually. Audibly, there was sound like a mighty rushing wind, so loud it attracted huge crowds of people who came to see what was going on.

Visually, because the Holy Spirit, like tongues of fire, came to rest on each of the Apostles. Incidentally, the Mitre (hat) that our bishops wear is so shaped to represent the tongues of fire resting on them. "Like a rushing wind and like tongues of fire." Very descriptive. How else could the people explain what they have witnessed?

But it doesn't stop there. The text tells us they spoke in different languages and proclaimed the Gospel in the native languages of the many peoples from many countries gathered there.

As I said, Some people have great problems with Acts 2, and have always discounted this as a fanciful story because our modern world view won't allow us to believe it to be true.

So a question : do **we** believe it ?

We are given all sorts of information by all sorts of people and organisations and at the end of the day, we all have a decision to make. Do we believe the facts that are presented to us.

Some of the Bible is poetic, for instance Ps 36:7 says God will cover us with his wings, which doesn't mean God is a great big chicken! No it poetically expresses the idea of God protecting us.

Some of the Bible is fictional, stories or parables told to illustrate a truth. Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons" He is clearly not reporting an actual incident but telling a fictional story, a parable, that illustrates the love of God.

These days we are aware of the term 'Spin doctors' where the facts of a particular situation are twisted to suit the purpose of the 'Spinner'. Can we believe what is said.

And also these days, Facebook has all sorts of rubbish that we are supposed to believe and trust, fake news, fake stories and fake adverts. Do we trust it? Do we believe it?

What about our reading from Acts. Do we trust it, do we believe it. The claims are incredible.

How could more than twelve, mostly uneducated, folk from an obscure part of the Roman Empire, be able to speak to such a diverse group, all in their native languages?

One reason given by the doubters, is that they were drunk. Being drunk doesn't give you the ability to speak foreign languages!

Some parts of the Gospels are written as parables, stories to illustrate the love of God and his actions, but the Acts of the Apostles is written as history, actual happenings witnessed and experienced by reliable sources. We have no reason to doubt, no reason not to believe Luke and his witnesses.

Prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit the apostles were virtually living in hiding in the upper room. A great task had been entrusted to them, yet they had neither the strength nor the will to begin it.

But after the coming of the Holy Spirit they were changed people. They left their hiding place and set out courageously to preach the Gospel.

What was it that the Spirit did to them? In promising the Spirit Jesus had said to them, 'You will receive power when the Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses, not only in Jerusalem, but to the ends of the earth.'

Power was precisely what they needed. At that moment they felt completely powerless. They were crippled with fear and a sense of inadequacy. They felt totally incapable of carrying out the task of preaching the Gospel and witnessing to Jesus. They had, after all, seen what happened to Jesus.

The Holy Spirit came down on them in the form of Wind and Fire and gave them the power they needed. Wind has the power to move, to uproot. Fire has the power to refine and transform. Here we see the power of God to transform and energise the apostles.

The coming of the Spirit provided the apostles with the energy, the courage, the love and the passion to get on with the task that Jesus had given them.

People change when they are given hope; when someone believes in them and gives them a task to do; when they are loved. They come out of their shells, and hidden energies are released in them.

2000+ years ago on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit poured down on the followers of Jesus and "all of them" proclaimed the Good News to the people in the streets.

This power from the Holy Spirit is available to us. As Geoff told us in his sermon two weeks ago, the Spirit is already within us, we just need to recognise and acknowledge it.

Then who knows what might happen, what gifts and abilities we might discover in ourselves when we do.

Amen. Happy Birthday to the Christian Church. *Norman Potter*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried ;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again ;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The Prayers of Intercession

As children and pilgrims of a loving God who always listens to our cries, we are invited to come before God, in all that we are, and with all the prayer we need make.

You may wish to use these, or other, prayers as part of this time. Bringing before God all that is your concern ; not least in prayer for our families, loved ones, those who are sick, those providing care, the Church and people of God - knowing all is held by God. (Prayers from 'Times and Seasons' ; C of E.)

Let us pray for God to fill us with his Spirit,



Generous God,
we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit.
We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.
Lord, come to bless us - **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.
Lord, come to bless us - **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness
where there is division, sickness, and sorrow.
Lord, come to bless us - **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to equip us
for the work which you have given us.
Lord, come to bless us - **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.
Lord, come to bless us - **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit,
given us by the risen Lord.
We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,
in the joy of eternal life.
Lord, come to bless us - **and fill us with your Spirit.**

Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon your disciples in
the upper room ; in your mercy, fill us with your Spirit.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name ; thy
kingdom come ; thy will be done ; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not
into temptation ; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

CLICK below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=470Exjng92I>

My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die ?



He came from his blest throne, salvation to bestow :
but men made strange, and none the
longed-for Christ would know.
But, O my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend !

Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing ;
resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify !' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done ? What makes
this rage and spite ?
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries ! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away ;
a murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine ;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine !
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

*Words: S. Crossman (1624-83)
Tune: Love Unknown*



Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal :
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, overflowing in love.
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.

Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word ;
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.
With the new wine of the Spirit
they proclaim your reign of love.

Amid the birth pangs of the new creation
the way of light is made known ;
by you,
our source of freedom, giver of life.

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As part of God's Church,
let us live what we proclaim.
Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
let us dare to walk into God's future
trusting Him who is at our side.

May the Spirit of truth lead us into all truth,
give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen us to proclaim the word and works of God ;
and may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us,
and as a pledge of what is to come
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.
Alleluia.

Please look to your ROOM and HOME _

--- please look from your WINDOW ---

In our place, heart and home, and to all the world :

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

{ - and also with you. Alleluia }

The Dismissal

So let us go into the day in peace ;
and may we love and serve the Lord
in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia ! Amen.